GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2657
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Train for Ferrying Farm Produce
Kamaraaj Dr. K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a special train to ferry farm produce in co-ordination with the Railways for the benefit of farmers keeping in view the post-harvest losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) the extent to which the said train is likely to reduce the post-harvest losses;

(d) whether it is a fact that only one such train has been started between Western and Northern India; and

(e) if so, the time by which such trains between Southern and Northern India are likely to be introduced by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (c): National Horticulture Board (NHB), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Ministry of Railways jointly started a containerized "Horticulture Train" with specialized designed insulated and ventilated containers for transport of banana from Bhusawal to New Azadpur (New Delhi) on pilot basis. In 2012-13 and 2013-14, Horticulture Train was commissioned for transport of banana from Raver to New Azadpur (New Delhi).

The main objective of the "Horticulture Train" was to provide technology solution for safe and speedy long distance bulk transport of fresh fruits & vegetables, reduction in post-harvest losses and linking of production clusters with markets situated in long distance consumption centre within assured transit time.

(d) & (e): Only one train was started between Raver to New Azadpur (New Delhi). The train service has been discontinued during current year. The Government is studying the feasibility for long distance bulk movement of horticulture produce. However, Railways are meeting the demand for transportation of farm produce as and when such demands are being placed.

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